

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 20576 151104Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 /022 W  
-----108275 151107Z /13

P R 151019Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6218

UNCLAS BANGKOK 20576

USIA FOR IEA, IOP/M, IBS, IPS, IOR/RIM

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: THAI MEDIA REACTION--HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE OCTOBER 6  
DEFENDANTS

WELL-KNOWN BANGKOK ATTORNEY MARUT BUNNAG, A DRAFTER OF THE  
1974 THAI CONSTITUTION, DESCRIBED THE RIGHT TO DEFENSE COUNSEL IN  
A TRIAL AS "A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT" IN SIAM RATH COLUMN  
SEPTEMBER 14. HE URGED THAT THE OCTOBER 6 DEFENDANTS CURRENTLY  
ON TRIAL IN A MILITARY COURT WITHOUT DEFENSE ATTORNEYS PRESENT  
BE PERMITTED COUNSEL. EXTRACT FOLLOWS.

(BEGIN EXTRACT)

THE RIGHT TO DEFEND ONESELF IN ACCORDANCE WITH JUDICIAL  
PROCEDURES IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT. IT CAN BE SEEN THAT THE  
1951 GENEVA CONVENTION ON EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS-OF-WAR SPECIFIED  
THAT PRISONERS OF WAR PROSECUTED IN BATTLE FIELD COURTS HAVE THE  
RIGHT TO OBTAIN LAWYERS. THIS IS BECAUSE INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS  
FEEL THAT TO ALLOW PERSONS NOT KNOWING LEGAL MATTERS TO DEFEND  
THEMSELVES AGAINST PUBLIC PROSECUTORS WHO ARE VERSED IN LEGAL  
MATTERS IS NOT JUSTICE.

AS A THAI, I HAVE THE RIGHT TO LOVE THE COUNTRY AND ITS  
DIGNITY TOO. I BELIEVE NO THAI WANTS HIS COUNTRY TO BE SEEN BY  
FOREIGNERS AS A COUNTRY WHERE THERE IS NO JUSTICE FOR THE  
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ACCUSED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES WITHOUT REASONS (FOR SUCH ACTION)  
GIVEN THEM.

IT IS NOT YET TOO LATE FOR BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE  
LEGISLATURE TO WORK TOGETHER TO FIND A SOLUTION IN HARMONY WITH  
THE COURSE OF JUSTICE.

(END EXTRACT)

MCGINLEY

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** THAI MEDIA REACTION--HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE OCTOBER 6 DEFENDANTS WELL-KNOWN BANGKOK ATTORNEY MARUT BUNNAG, A DRAFTE  
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